

April 10, 2004

RE: RM-10868

Dear Commissioners,

This petition introduces two new changes to Amateur Radio Service.

The wideband data proposal of this petition is one of the few ideas presented that actually has some legitimate merit. This would encourage experimentation on a band where two-way long distant communications occur more frequently. Please consider this concept.

Giving the Technicians access to the high end of the 160 Meter band is a very good proposal. The 160 Meter band is not heavily used and would encourage more activities on this band.

The need to make changes to the current examinations should be considered after lengthy discussions with the Volunteer Examination Coordinators. If the VECs are having problems with current exam procedures, they should be seeking changes.

A waiting period to re-test should be no longer than one day. Longer waits only frustrates the applicant.

The majority of the petition discusses the need to retain Element I. All of their reasons have been discussed in previous petitions and only present the pro-code position. Most of their views of CW communications have been well debunked in previous petitions asking for the removal of Element I.

Grandfathering the Novice Class and Advanced Class will be the only way to remove the current six license classes. Combining the two classes into the next license class would be the easiest way to eliminate the former license classes.

The petition seeks to reduce the power level to 100 watts PEP for the Novice/Technician sub-bands. Lowering the power level is not important. Unless, all Amateurs are held to the same maximum power level in those sub-bands.

The only parts of this petition that should be considered is the wideband data on 10M and the additional Technician phone sub-band on 160M.

Regards,
Melvin Lehmann